

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Reed and Bowles Trading Post

other names/site number Reed's Store, Reed's Post, Reed's Station

2. Location

street & number Joyland Road

city or town Lewistown

state Montana code MT county Fergus code 27 zip code 59457

X

not for publication

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national X statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Reed & Bowles Trading Post
Name of Property

Fergus County, MT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: department store and trading
post

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other/Pre-railroad/Log

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: None

walls: Wood/Log

roof: Wood/board and batten

other:

Reed & Bowles Trading Post
Name of Property

Fergus County, MT
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Reed and Bowles Trading Post is a single room cabin with a gable roof, built of square hewn logs. The building is set in a grove of trees, near Big Spring Creek, a major tributary in this area. The property is located northwest of the town of Lewistown and is county owned, accessed by a narrow gravel road that passes over a bridge that spans the creek and winds back into the remote setting.

The trading post was situated near to the Carroll Crossing, the place where the Carroll Trail crossed the Big Spring Creek, beginning in 1874. "The post, from the best description, consisted of two log cabins built with the ax and auger and with no nails but pegs to hold it together, and a dirt floor. They were enclosed in a stockade built by standing poles on end in a trench joined close together so as to form a high fence around a quadrangle about 100 by 150 feet. On the south end towards the river was a big gate through which they could drive inside the quadrangle or stockade. On the north was a corral to protect horses from Indian raids."¹

English sportsman, Charles Alston Messiter, who visited in 1878 on a hunting trip, described the scene.

"The ranche consisted of a square stockade with large entrance gates, inside which were four or five small log cabins, one of which was the trading store, another was for Bowles and his wife and Reed to live in, while the others were for eating rooms. The whole place was very untidy and dirty..."²

Prior to the establishment of Reed and Bowles Trading Post, Fort Story or Fort Sherman was built in 1873 by Peter Koch for Nelson Story and Charles Hoffman on the west side of Big Spring Creek. The post was located on what was to be a large Crow reservation and was named Fort Sherman. It was the first permanent structure in the Judith Basin. By 1874, plans for the Crow reservation had fallen through, but construction of the Carroll Trail, a freighting route connecting Carroll on the Missouri and Helena, was underway. Fort Sherman was sold in the Fall of 1874 to Alonzo S. Reed and John Bowles, who dismantled it in the Spring of 1875 and floated the logs down Spring Creek to its present location, to take advantage of traffic along the Carroll Trail and to trade with the many tribes who used the area as a hunting ground. Reed and Bowles ran the trading post until 1880.³ Today, this cabin is the last structure remaining of the post; the stockade and other cabins no longer remain. According to a historical account by O.O. Mueller in 1931, "In 1883 the original log cabin was enlarged and a new roof put on and since then there have been no changes in the structure except repair to the roof."⁴

Narrative Description

Natural Setting

Reed and Bowles Trading Post is located in the Judith Basin, a high rolling valley situated at an altitude of about 4,000 feet. The basin is braided by the Judith River and creeks that comprise the watershed that drains the surrounding Little and Big Belt, Highwood, Snowy, Moccasin and Judith Mountains. Located in the zone where the Rocky Mountains to the West intersect with the grasslands of the Northern Plains to the east, the basin was, and is, a fertile environment. It is well-watered by springs and mountain streams, and is replete with berries, wild plums and chokecherries and wild game in abundance. Buffalo, deer and elk are native to this country along with numerous species of upland and migratory birds. Wooded canyons and gulches offered shelter and wood for winter shelter, and the surrounding mountains are blanketed with pine forests that are broken up by grassy parks and meadows.

1 Oscar Mueller, "Reed, Bowles Played Part in Judith Basin History" *Great Falls Tribune* (March 29, 1931).

2 Charles Alston Messiter, *Sport and Adventure Among the North American Indians* (London, R.H. Porter 1890), 304. Also online at [http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/444.html?qid=peelbiblstockadel\(peelnum:000444\)lscore](http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/444.html?qid=peelbiblstockadel(peelnum:000444)lscore).

3 Robert Dissly, *History of Lewistown* (Lewistown, News Argus Printing) 12-17.

4 Ibid, Mueller.

Reed & Bowles Trading Post
Name of Property

Fergus County, MT
County and State

Physical Description

The Reed and Bowles Trading Post is a one-room log building with a gable roof and no foundation. The sill logs rest directly on the ground and the walls are constructed of large hand-hewn square logs stacked 13 high in the gable ends. Ax and adze marks are evident on the logs. The corners are joined with a square notch and the two sections of the cabin are joined with a vertical channel post. The southern section of the cabin was constructed first in 1874 and the northern section was constructed in 1883. The 1883 addition was built with hand-hewn square logs and the corners are also joined with a square notch. The walls are chinked with concrete. The roof is supported by five round log purlins and clad with a board-and-batten wood roof laid over two-inch by twelve-inch wood sheathing. The north side of the cabin features a bronze dedication plaque given by the Julia Hancock Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution in 1940.

The façade (east elevation) consists of a central door flanked by one six-over-six double-hung sash on each side. The door is constructed of vertical boards and fastened by Z-bracing. There are no windows on the north elevation. On the west elevation there is one six-over-six double-hung sash and one sash opening that has been infilled with square logs and chinking. There is another entrance door at the west end of the south elevation, also constructed of vertical boards with Z-bracing and fastened shut with a padlock. Both interior rooms are unaltered and feature exposed log walls and roof members. No evidence of modern electrical or plumbing fixtures are present. Fergus County uses the building for storage space.

Integrity

The Reed and Bowles Trading Post retains excellent overall integrity. The setting of the building against the natural cottonwoods and riparian vegetation still strongly evoke the frontier settlement era represented by the post. Despite the fact that other stockade buildings are missing, this is a rare and representative building given that so many of the early Montana territorial posts are completely gone today. Features that contribute to this early territorial character include the unobstructed view from the cabin to Big Spring Creek, the spacious yet unmanicured lawn on four sides of the building, and the mature trees to the north, east and west of the lawn that serve to obscure the view to twentieth century buildings of the nearby Poor Farm located north of the trading post. The cabin, though moved in 1874, is also located in its original location as intended by Reed and Bowles.

There is an early twentieth century bridge across Big Spring Creek and a circular drive dating to the Poor Farm era that passes on the west side of the building. There is also an early twentieth century barn north of the cabin and an early twentieth century residence to the east. The bridge, road and buildings are within view of the cabin, but are mostly obscured by vegetation and not close enough to obfuscate that the cabin is clearly a building dating to the territorial era.

The cabin's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is clearly intact. The original log walls with clean square notched corners are unchanged and though several window sashes on the building have been altered or infilled, the arrangement of the original fenestration, including the original entrance doors has not been altered. The design of the original cabin was altered in 1883 when an addition was attached to the rear of the original building. This addition does not significantly detract from the integrity in that it was enlarged using similar dimension logs and the same type of corner notching. In addition, the roof pitch and roofing material was also not altered during the construction. In recent years, the cabin's sill logs have been repaired or replaced in kind, a cyclical maintenance procedure that has improved and extended the cabin's useful life and integrity.

The cabin's interior integrity is of the highest quality, and a model example of a cabin interior of the territorial era. The interior has not been altered with any modern conveniences such as plumbing, electrical wiring or modern interior finishes. The log walls, interior posts, and rafters are exposed and unaltered and the cabin still retains its dirt floor. These features along with the cabin's generally intact setting and feeling, and high degree of exterior design, materials, and workmanship allows the casual visitor to easily visualize the scene here from 1874 to 1880.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Exploration and Settlement

Period of Significance

1874-1880

Significant Dates

1874, Sept. 21, 1877

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Alonzo Reed, John Bowles

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1874 with the construction of the log building at this site and ends in 1880 when partners Reed and Bowles dissolved their business entity and moved to separate locations in the area to pursue new business. After 1880 the building never again served as a trading post.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Reed and Bowles Trading Post is perhaps the oldest building that still stands in the Judith Basin. A modest log cabin, it is the last standing structure to reflect the end of the fur trade era, the opening of Central Montana to white settlers and the early patterns of development that led to the establishment of Lewistown. It is significant under Criterion A at the state level of significance for its role in the development of commerce with hunters, trappers and multiple tribal nations who hunted in the Judith Basin, and for its associations with the establishment of early commerce and settlement in Central Montana and in the Lewistown community. Built in 1874, the trading post was located at the confluence of hunting trails used by multiple native populations, and also stood along the Carroll Trail, a short-lived freighting road between Carroll and Helena. It served as the only outpost in the region for fur traders, soldiers and native people traveling between Fort Benton and a small outpost at Martinsdale.

Many nineteenth century accounts, some by well-known figures in American history, describe the post, its colorful characters and vivid events, thereby establishing its significance and supporting its associations as an important stopping place in Central Montana. Further, the post is located along the Nez Perce Trail, and was the site where members of the tribe sought provisions on their ill-fated flight through Montana, as they tried to escape the U.S. Army and find refuge in Canada in 1877. The building that remains today was one of the first permanent residences and/or businesses in the Judith Basin and was the impetus for mixed-blood native and white settlement in the area after 1879. Of the numerous histories that make up the story of early Montana, this humble log cabin and trading post, connects many of Montana's historical contexts and tells the story of a place where pivotal changes in human relations, commerce, and land development shaped the future settlement of Central Montana and the Judith Basin region.

The Reed and Bowles Trading Post was moved early in its history, but does not need to be discussed under Criteria Consideration B. Originally constructed in 1873 by Peter Koch, it was dismantled one year later and moved down Big Spring Creek about one-and-a-half miles to its present location. It was here that Reed and Bowles conducted business, and where the period of significance began in 1874 and ended in 1880.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Regional Historic Context

In the years before 1880 when cattlemen and white settlers moved into Central Montana, the Judith Basin was frequented by a number of Native American tribes of the region, including the Blackfeet, Gros Ventre and Assiniboines from the north and east and the Crows to the southeast. This area was a traditional hunting ground for the Flatheads and Nez Perce as they traveled across the Trail to the Buffalo in the summer and fall, to provision themselves with meat and other food for the winter. As buffalo and other game became scarce elsewhere, the Sioux from the east and others frequented the region more intensively for hunting and trading.⁵

Interest in the native lands of the western U.S. began with the first Euro-American explorers, the de la Verendrye Expedition, who in 1743 followed the Missouri River westward. Approximately sixty years later, the American expedition Corps of Discovery, led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, passed through north central Montana, again along the Missouri River in 1805 and during their 1806 return to the United States.⁶

For the following several decades, the Missouri River remained the primary form of travel for the fur traders who entered the area seeking beaver pelts. During this formative period, Euro-American fur trappers began to establish a foothold along the Missouri River to further economic aims. In 1822, Fort Union (then Fort Floyd) was completed near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, and trappers used this post as a base to gradually penetrate the upstream corridor. In 1831, James Kipp of the American Fur Company constructed Fort Piegan at the mouth of the Marias River in order to conduct trade with the Blackfeet people who controlled the region. While this fort only lasted

⁵ Ibid, Mueller, "Pair Operated Stage Station . . ."

⁶ Jim Jenks, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, The Naylor Ranch" (August 11, 2008) 15.

one season, it inspired a series of forts over the coming years. The American Fur Company's outpost at Fort Benton opened for business in 1846, and soon rose to prominence as the head of navigation on the Missouri River.⁷

In 1858, gold was first discovered in Montana on Gold Creek, in the northern portion of Deer Lodge Valley. This and other discoveries transformed Fort Benton, hurt by the dying fur trade, into a bustling port and supply center. Steamboats first docked at the fort in 1860, and new roads connected the outpost with regional mining centers. By 1865, the American Fur Company ended its Fort Benton business interest, and the town settled into a role as a supplier to the mining industry and infant agricultural settlements.⁸

Through the 1860s and 1870s, the U.S. military waged numerous campaigns in Montana and adjacent territories against native people, in an effort to restrict them to increasingly reduced land bases and open more territory for mineral extraction, transportation routes, railroad building and settlement. During the summer of 1872, the Northern Pacific Railroad sent parties to survey potential rail routes through the Missouri and Yellowstone drainages. By 1873, miners and prospectors had entered the southeastern portion of Crow territory, undeterred by treaty boundaries, and were scouring the region for minerals. Negotiations for a possible Central Montana Crow Indian reservation in 1873 promised to change the map of central Montana Territory.⁹

Construction of Fort Sherman

The trading opportunities presented by the possibility of a new Crow Indian reserve in Central Montana Territory interested white businessmen and drew Nelson Story and Charles W. Hoffman to the treaty negotiations. Story, a pioneer Gallatin Valley rancher and Hoffman, a former Northwestern Fur company employee, had actually been engaged in trade with the Crow since 1870, trading at the Mission Creek Crow agency on the Yellowstone. Both were present in the summer of 1873 when a commission was sent to negotiate with the River and Mountain Crow to persuade them to move and accept a small reserve in the Judith Basin for both bands. The Crow recognized it was too small to support their numbers, but acquiesced in August of 1873, in discussions with the commission. Papers drawn up indicated the Crow's position through their interpreters, with Nelson Story and Charles Hoffman signators as witnesses.¹⁰

The site for a new agency was to be located and Dr. William Wright, a newly-appointed Crow agent, sent a party to the Musselshell to survey for a suitable location. Wright also arranged for Story and Hoffman to establish a trading post in the vicinity. By October 2 that year, they had retained Peter Koch to travel north from Bozeman with a bull train of materials to "build, stock and manage" a trading post, while Wright's son-in-law C. C. Cross made ready to establish a military camp. The two parties set out together, and arriving in the valley, Cross sited the new camp on the west side of Big Spring Creek, just north of Little Casino Creek.¹¹

As Koch later related:

"In the winter of 1872-73 Maj. F. D. Pease negotiated a treaty with the Crows, according to which they were to give up their reservation on the Yellowstone and accept in lieu of it the Judith Basin. This treaty was never ratified by the Senate and therefore came to nothing; but anticipating that this removal would take place, Messrs. Story and Hoffman, who were the traders to the Crows, engaged me to go down into the basin and establish a trading post. Captain Gross, an employee of the Crow Agency, went also to select a site for the new agency.

A site was selected just below the mouth of Big Casino Creek, on the south bank of Big Spring Creek, and when the ox train with the goods and supplies had arrived I built there, during November and December, 1873, the first permanent houses within the Judith Basin. While waiting in idleness for the arrival of the train, the boys put in most of their time with an old deck of cards, playing casino, and we accordingly named the creek we were camped on "Big Casino" and a little spring creek just below "Little Casino," and I was much amused years after on seeing Colonel Ludlow's map that these names had been perpetuated.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Dissly 15.

10 John S. Gray, *Custer's Last Campaign: Mitch Boyer and the Little Bighorn Reconstructed* (University of Nebraska Press, 1991) 100.

11 Ibid.

The basin was then the finest game country I ever saw, swarming with buffalo, elk, and deer. The white-tail deer were especially plentiful in the pine coulees which ran down through the foothills from the mountains, and their tameness showed that they had been very little hunted. Small bands of Crows came in to trade all through the winter, and we had considerable trouble from war parties of Sioux who came in to steal horses. One white man was killed by them.¹²

The plan for a Crow reservation in this part of Montana did not materialize, although the Crow remained in the vicinity over the winter and a portion of their annuities were to be distributed at the Judith Basin agency.

“T.L. Dawes, who has been engaged in business in Bozeman for the past eighteen months, has bought out Story and Hoffman at Judith Basin, and left for that place last Sunday. He has been in the Indian trade for many years.”¹³

Upon Dawes arrival with a small party at the post, Peter Koch inventoried the stock, and turned the business over on March 12. On his departure, he contacted the River Crow to inform them that annuities would be awaiting them at the newly-named Fort Dawes. Koch went on to report . . .

“I left there in March, 1874, when it became evident that the removal of the Crows would not take place, and T. L. Dawes took charge of the post, which I had named Fort Sherman.

That year Carroll was established on the Missouri River, and a wagon road was opened from that point to Helena, running through the basin. Meanwhile Major Reed, an old Indian trader, had purchased the trading store from Story and Hoffman and moved it down Big Spring Creek about a mile and a half, to the crossing of the Carroll road, where it became known as Reed's Fort, and a hard place it was.”¹⁴

By the Spring of 1875, Alonzo S. Reed and John J. Bowles had positioned the Reed & Bowles Trading Post to take advantage of what they hoped would be brisk traffic along the much anticipated Carroll Trail. They also located the post to be farther distant from the newly established Camp Lewis, a summer camp for Company F of the Seventh U.S. Infantry dispatched to guard travelers on the Carroll Trail. Away from the watchful eye of the military, the partners could carry on with their lucrative, but illegal trade of liquor and firearms with the passing tribes.¹⁵

The Carroll Trail

In the early 1870s, the small village of Carroll, which was just a collection of log cabins, had hopes of replacing Fort Benton as the head of navigation on the Missouri River. It was the short-lived brainstorm of enterprising promoters and merchants from Helena who sought to shorten the distance and lessen the costs of freight from Fort Benton, then Montana's shipping center. While the distance between Fort Benton and Helena was 140 miles and the distance between Carroll and the future Capitol was 70 miles further, the Carroll Road was advertised as much less difficult to travel, saving an estimated ten days. Steamboats could also get to Carroll more quickly, given that Benton was further upriver.¹⁶

In 1873, the Diamond R Freight Company established the Carroll landing as a reliable head of navigation on the Missouri River to access Helena, and promoted the Carroll Trail as the most reliable route for getting supplies to and from the new capital of Montana Territory. In 1874, the Diamond R convinced the U.S. Army to establish a series of posts along the Carroll Trail to protect it from Indian raids. Camp Lewis was located on Big Spring Creek in nearly the exact location of Fort Sherman, which Reed & Bowles had just moved down river. Low water on the Missouri in 1874 and 1875 made Carroll an attractive port that summer, but freighters soon discovered that the Carroll Road was actually *more* difficult to travel than the Fort Benton Road to Helena. Gumbo-mud roads made travel incredibly laborious. In their 1875 geological

12 Walter Harvey Weed, Louis Valentine Pirsson, as quoted in *Geology and Mineral Resources of the Judith Mountains of Montana* (U.S. Gov't. Printing Office, 1898) 448-449.

13 Bozeman Avant Courier, March 6, 1874.

14 Ibid, Weed and Pirsson.

15 Ibid, Dissly 16.

16 Michael J. Koury, *Guarding the Carroll Trail and Camp Lewis, 1874-1875*. (Fort Collins: The Old Army Press, 1985) 9.

report of the route, Edward S. Dana and George Bird Grinnell, an early Montana ethnographer wrote that “[W]hen thoroughly wetted, it [the road] becomes a fathomless mass of clinging mud, through which straining animals can hardly drag the heavily weighted wheels.”¹⁷

Further, Lakota Sioux warriors took advantage of the feeble protection provided by the over-stretched infantry troops along the route, with bloodshed and horse-stealing a growing occurrence. High water in 1876 allowed most steamboats to continue to Fort Benton’s better port facilities, and the Carroll Trail was left completely unprotected when most troops took to the field when the Great Sioux War erupted in southeastern Montana. The Carroll Trail was a failure, and except for local traffic, freighting along it never revived. Carroll was abandoned by 1880 and later was washed away by Missouri River flooding.¹⁸ Despite the failure of the Carroll Trail, Reed and Bowles remained, running a brisk business trading with passing tribes, hunters, and trappers.

Reed & Bowles Trading Post

Reed and Bowles arrived in Montana Territory in the 1860s from Wyoming or Colorado. The references to both in Montana begin at Diamond City, the mining camp in Confederate Gulch on the north side of the Helena Valley. Bowles was reportedly a mule skinner assigned to assist soldiers establish Fort Baker in the vicinity, while Reed is first known to have been in company with James M. Cavanaugh, Helena attorney and territorial Congressman. A large, brutal man, Reed reportedly served as Cavanaugh’s prize fighter and strong-armed enforcer.¹⁹

Reed’s connections apparently served his personal interests, for in 1870, he was appointed as agent for the Milk River Indian agency, a short-lived tenure that only lasted a few weeks, from September 14 to November 4 of that year. In 1874, Reed hired on to carry mail to the Yellowstone Expedition, a party of 147 men set on opening a wagon road through Sioux and Crow territory, from Bozeman to Bismarck, North Dakota.²⁰

Reed & Bowles Trading Post was located approximately midway between Carroll on the Missouri River and Martinsdale, the only stop along a stretch of 150 miles. The post became a stopping place for freighters and travelers on the Carroll Trail and expeditions of trappers and hunters, as well as soldiers from Fort Lewis and bands of Crow Indians that regularly camped in the vicinity. From November 1874 until 1880 Reed and Bowles lived in the stockaded post and conducted business. According to historian Brian Schofield, “Most of their income was derived from flagrantly ignoring the laws against serving whiskey to Indians – there were rarely any troops posted at nearby Camp Lewis, so the pair were over a hundred miles from justice in all directions – and they lubricated hunting parties with a noxious homebrew reputedly made from ethanol, tobacco, and red pepper.”²¹

During this era, both men took Indian wives. Reed married Emma Shane, a French-Crow Métis woman and Bowles married the daughter of Long Horse, a Crow leader whose band encamped near to the trading post most of the year. Stories abound of Reed and Bowles drunken sprees, ruthless business practices, brutality to their wives and murderous retribution through their careers.²² From Luther S. “Yellowstone” Kelly’s eye-witness account of Indian agent Reed and a party of drunken roughnecks helping to salvage kegs of whiskey from a sunken steamboat in 1870,²³ to stories of trader Reed shooting men for various infractions and dispatching them in a burial ground across the river from his post, to the account of Bowles selling the bones of his father-in-law Long Horse to an Irish ethnologist,²⁴ the reputations of Reed and Bowles were of hardened men whose sociopathic behavior ran unchecked at this outpost beyond the reach of the law and society.

Accounts of visitors to the Reed & Bowles Trading Post were numerous and ranged from big game hunters such as Englishman and insatiable sport hunter Charles A. Messiter, to unsavory hunter “Liver-Eating” Johnson, and nearby

¹⁷ Ibid, Koury.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid, Mueller.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Brian Schofield, *Selling Your Father’s Bones: America’s 140-Year War Against the Nez Perce Tribe* (New York, Simon & Schuster 2009) 236.

²² Ibid, Mueller.

²³ Jerry Keenan, *The Life of Yellowstone Kelly* (University of New Mexico Press 2006)

²⁴ Ibid, Mueller.

trader Pike Landusky.²⁵ A bit less colorful, but equally significant was the visit of George Bird Grinnell, American anthropologist, naturalist and early-day conservationist along with Captain William Ludlow who stopped at Reed and Bowles store in 1875 on their way to explore the newly created Yellowstone National Park for the U.S. Army. Ludlow and Grinnell later became well known for their report on Yellowstone, which was instrumental in establishing enforced protection of the natural resources of the park.²⁶

Most significant, however, on September 21, 1877 the Nez Perce stopped near the post for provisions on their 1,100 mile flight from Wallowa as they sought to find refuge from the U. S. Army. The buffalo hunters of the tribe were quite familiar with the post, having traveled the many trails and campgrounds of the basin, well known to tribes from all over the Northwest.

In September of 1877 the Nez Perce Indians, in their attempt to escape from soldiers into Canada, passed through the basin, following the Carroll Trail from Judith Gap within a few miles of the Reed and Bowles stockade, when they diverted to escape possible damage that might be inflicted by a small group of men in the stockade. They undoubtedly knew the reputation of Reed and Bowles. Following them closely was a group of scouts, among whom was a Henry Flanagan, now living near Stevensville. As he describes the scene, they were led by George Husscene, one of the leading scouts, who had been in the basin and knew the location of the stockade. They were compelled to form a dry camp because of darkness. In the morning daylight revealed the stockade just a short distance below them in the valley. It was a welcome sight and soon the group of scouts, numbering about 20, was in the stockade requesting breakfast. After a meal of steak, potatoes and flapjacks cooked by the Indian wife of a Mexican, they recuperated from their week of hunger due to failure of the commissary to keep up with them.²⁷

Another account simply reports:

“Heading due north toward Canada . . . they [Nez Perce] rode through country familiar to many of their buffalo hunters and on the night of September 21 camped near the Reed and Bowles Stockade . . . Some of the hunters had traded with Reed in the past, and they rode over to see him, spending the evening in a friendly way and telling him of some of their exploits and adventures. The next day they continued on, following the Snowy Mountain foothills and heading down Dog Creek.”²⁸

The Nez Perce hurriedly moved out of the Judith Basin that day and on to cross the Missouri River at Cow Island on September 23rd.²⁹

In the years after 1877, Reed and Bowles continued to trade with trappers and white and native hunters and witnessed the coming influx of ranchers into the Judith Basin as stockmen like Frank Chamberlain, H. P. Brooks, T. C. Power and J.H. McKnight trailed cattle into today’s Fergus County. In 1877, rancher Frank Chamberlain moved the first substantial numbers of cattle into today’s Fergus County, establishing his herd along today’s McDonald Creek. By 1883 some 33,000 cattle grazed within a twenty-mile radius of Spring Creek, and by 1885 the number of sheep and cattle within sixty miles of the creek increased to approximately 100,000 each.³⁰

Rapid change in the landscape and economics of the Judith Basin occurred between 1880 and 1885. The first mention of change came in a June 1879 news brief in the Helena Independent. “Reed & Bowles have quite a large field of corn growing on their ranch near old Camp Lewis, Judith basin”(sic). In that same newspaper column, the editors note that “Seventeen families of the Red river half breeds who arrived in the Judith basin recently, from the North, have located on Big Spring Creek, on the south side of the Judith, where they say they will build homes this season.”³¹

Métis Regional Settlement

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ John F. Reiger, *The Passing of the Great West: selected papers of George Bird Grinnell* (Winchester Press 1972) 113-114.

²⁷ Ibid, Mueller.

²⁸ Alvin M. Josephy, *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest*. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 1997) 613.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Jenks 16.

³¹ Helena Independent, 6 June 1879, 3.

The region's first permanent settlements were by the Métis people, descendants of French Canadian traders who married Chippewa and Cree women. The Métis culture that resulted was rich and vibrant, centered around trade among many nations in a period of great upheaval. They established trading centers, pursued agriculture, hunted and trapped, and functioned as translators and intermediaries between native and non-native cultures.³²

According to Métis history, through the 1850s to the 1870s, the Métis settlers on the plains in Pembina pursued the hunting traditions of their Indian ancestors, following and hunting buffalo to provision their families. Many traveled seasonally into the northeastern and central parts of Montana, in the Milk and Missouri River drainages. In 1870, twenty five of the Pembina families set out in Red River Carts, crossing North Dakota to live in the Milk River country in northeastern Montana near Malta for almost seven years.³³

The group was living near Chinook and the Bear's Paw when the Nez Perce surrendered there to the U.S. Army in 1877. Two years later, with game under pressure and growing scarce, they faced a decision.

"Pierre Berger, leader of the group, called the members around him to discuss the situation. He recalled that previously a Cree Indian had told him of a spot across the Missouri River where small game and wild birds were abundant and where the grass grew high. The land sounded promising and so, in May, 1879, twenty-five families left the familiar Milk River area in their squeaking carts and started for this new region. As it was necessary for them to go by way of Fort Benton and then eastward until they came to the Judith Mountains, it took most of the summer for the group to make the journey.

Here at their destination, the Judith Basin looked fertile and inviting. Berger decided that this area would make an excellent home site. The twenty-five families built cabins and hurriedly made preparations for the approaching winter. True to the description given by the Cree, game was plentiful. So, during the decade of the 1880s ... the Spring Creek colony flourished. Soon Janeaux established a trading post for them; in time other establishments sprang up and a colorful Montana frontier village, destined to become the town of Lewistown, was born."³⁴

An alternative account for the Métis moving into the Judith was related regarding Ben Kline, a prominent Métis leader of the Lewistown community. According to this account, Alonzo Reed played a role in convincing the Métis of the attractions of the Judith country.

The moving of the band from the Milk River country to the Judith Basin was the result of the discovery in the winter of 1878-79 by Frank Daignon and John Laverdure of some horses belonging to Major Reed of the Reed and Bowles trading post. When notified of the find, Reed, accompanied by Matt Sitteljin, a Canadian, went to the Métis camp in January 1879 to identify the horses.

During his visit, Reed told the Métis of the beautiful country in which he lived - a basin surrounded by mountains with fine streams full of fish, game in abundance and large herds of buffalo roaming the whole of the basin. His description so stirred the imagination of the hunters that they decided to move immediately to the new hunting grounds.³⁵

In 1879, three bands of Métis, some 40 families, became the first communities to permanently settle in this region, locating along Big Spring Creek, in the headwaters of the Basin. That year, a leading Métis figure and licensed trader, Francis A. Janeaux, established a trading post there and the settlement evolved over the decade that followed to become the community of Lewistown. As the center of trade shifted, Reed and Bowles dissolved the business, Reed establishing a homestead, trading post, and post office at the south edge of the Lewistown settlement, Bowles remaining on the Big Spring Creek property and in the Judith Basin for some time.³⁶

32 Verne Dusenberry, *Waiting for a Day That Never Comes* (Montana The Magazine of Western History Volume 8, No. 2) 27.

33 Dusenberry 30.

34 Dusenberry 31.

35 George D. Mueller, "Ben D. Kline: A True Leader of the Métis" *Lewistown News Argus* (December 12, 1999 Christmas Edition). Accessed Feb 20, <http://fergus.mtgenweb.org/ben-kline.htm>

36 Ibid Mueller, "Pair Operated Stage Station. . ."

Bowles was likely responsible for enlarging the trading post cabin in 1883, although he later sold the trading post buildings and they became part of the Fergus County Poor Farm, created in 1890. Bowles went on to serve a prison term in Deer Lodge, and finally moved to the Klondike and disappeared from recorded history. The other log buildings, the stockade fence and gate were removed over time, and the trading post is all that remains of the original building group.³⁷ Pictures of the Poor Farm taken in the 1920s and 1930s show the cabin, much as it looks today, nestled amidst trees with early twentieth century dormitories and barns positioned a distance away. The Julia Hancock Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated the building as a historic site in 1940. A bronze plaque on the north wall of the cabin commemorates the designation.

No information on the use of the building during the poor farm era was found. It is likely that it was used for storage given that the interior was never upgraded or improved. Though the county poor farm closed in 1969, the property continues to be owned and maintained by Fergus County.

Despite its eventful history, the Reed and Bowles Trading Post quickly faded from prominence after 1880 and sat quietly in the rural area northwest of what would become Lewistown as settlers slowly arrived and later poured into Central Montana. Never forgotten, locals have continually provided for its preservation and it stands today as one of the few remaining original structures that reflect the trading post era in territorial Montana.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Native American Occupation

The movement of various Plains tribes through the region made Central Montana and the Judith Basin an area important for trade, into which the Crow quickly established themselves. Crow trade, although centered in the Montana/Wyoming area, essentially linked them to both sides of the continent, a comment on the extensive Indian trade networks. The region, then, and the associated large-scale waterways of the Missouri and Musselshell rivers, formed a portion of the critical transportation corridors that maintained thriving Crow trade networks.³⁸

The Blackfeet initially opposed the American fur trappers who followed Lewis and Clark after 1806, and successfully resisted attempts by Americans to open fur trade outposts in their country. Finally, in 1832, the American Fur Company opened an outpost, Fort Piegan, on the Missouri River near the mouth of the Marias River, near present day Loma (about 125 miles from Lewistown). By then, the Blackfeet tempered their dislike for these intruders, enjoying the goods that traders offered. Besides access to trade, the Blackfeet ranged widely throughout the Missouri country using the region's resources.³⁹

Relations with the traders deteriorated when the Gros Ventre came to view the Europeans as allies of their enemies. Clashes with traders, as well as continued conflict with the Cree and Assiniboiné, worsened their condition, and by the early 1800s the tribe was moving south. By 1830, the Gros Ventre established a territory that stretched from southern Canada's "Cypress Hills to the Judith River and Bear Paw Mountains...down the Missouri and the Musselshell rivers on the east." After this relocation, relations with traders improved. Beginning in 1831, the tribe traded peacefully with the American Fur Company outposts on the Missouri River, where the tribe grew rich in horses and goods.⁴⁰

By the time of the Stevens Treaty of 1855 the central Montana region was used by all of these native people, but under the treaty it was reserved for the Blackfeet. This was a period of great upheaval for native people in the region, as Euro-American interests increased pressures on Indian territories, and natural and mineral resources. Non-Indian traders, miners, and agriculturists all increasingly looked at central and northern Montana as a last frontier where fortunes could be made.⁴¹

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid, Jenks 13.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Jenks 14.

⁴¹ Ellen and Ken Sievert, *A Guide to Historic Lewistown* (Montana Historical Society Press 1999)6.

Although the Stevens Treaty designated some 5,000 acres of land in eastern Washington and Idaho to the Nez Perce, prospectors continued to enter their land without regard for treaty or reservation boundary and made nearly unbearable the depredations on Nez Perce land, livestock, and the Indians themselves. The United States Government engaged the Nez Perce in new treaty negotiations in 1862 and 1863. Nearly all tribal bands were represented. Feeling that the government was demanding too much, many chiefs refused to sign the treaty of 1863. It is said that some chiefs signed as representing the Nez Perce Tribe, but their authority to do so was contested by Old Joseph (father of Joseph and Ollokot), White Bird, Looking Glass, and other leaders of the Upper Nez Perce. A political-religious division of the tribe developed. Those who signed were lauded as the Christian “treaty” Indians; those who did not sign became known as the “non-treaty” Nez Perce.⁴²

As the non-treaty Nez Perce tried to reestablish on their traditional homeland, settlement of the Snake and Clearwater River bottoms and the Wallowa Valley continued. For 13 years, the Indians had one difficulty after another with the United States Government and its agents. Finally in May 1877, in response to a federal ultimatum, the non-treaty chiefs decided to move onto the reservation at Lapwai rather than risk war with the Army. Pent-up emotions agitated by 24 years of depredation by miners and settlers, and now being forced to leave their homeland for the reservation, caused several embittered young warriors to ride out and avenge the past deaths of tribal members. The hope for the peaceful move ended and the flight of the Nez Perce began. Near the end of their tragic journey, the Nez Perce entered Montana from the south and passed through the Judith Basin, heading north across the Missouri, ending their fruitless 1,100-mile march in the Bears Paw Mountains.⁴³

⁴² *Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) Trail: A Study Report* (Missoula MT USDA, Forest Service Northern Region Federal Building in Cooperation with the National Park Service 1982).

⁴³ *Ibid.*

The Métis and Louis Riel in Montana

Simultaneous with the move of the Milk River Métis to Spring Creek in 1879, the revered Métis leader of the 1869 Manitoba Resistance, Louis Riel, joined the remaining Milk River Métis at their hunting camp north of the Missouri River. He was soon elected as leader to represent them and secure permission from military and reservation agents for the band to hunt on what was then, in part, Assiniboine, Gros Ventres, and Sioux reservation land. Without permission, the hunters would be in danger of expulsion to Canada. Although some military officials welcomed a strong Métis presence as a deterrent to Indian warfare, military officials also feared that Riel might unite the Indians and Métis and become a military threat in the region. Despite the suspicion, Riel was given permission, but officials demanded that the hunters return to Canada in the spring.⁴⁴

Riel did not return to Canada after the 1879 hunt given that he was denied amnesty by the Canadian government. Forced to remain in the U.S., he pursued the alliances that the military feared, attempting to organize a confederation of Indians and Métis. Although his attempts to organize various tribes failed, his vision soon morphed into the first effort to establish a Montana land base for the Métis people. He prepared a petition, signed by the adult males then hunting in the area, asking for a ‘special reservation . . . for the halfbreeds.’⁴⁵

Riel’s request indicated that the Métis did not wish to live on an “Indian-style” reservation and intended his people to be self supporting. He asked that the people own their own land individually as other settlers did under the various government land acts in place. He also offered that the Métis held a unique position “between the civilized and uncivilized man”, able to better influence neighboring tribes than whites. Of the 101 men who signed the petition, twenty-four were members of the Spring Creek band, five more settled with the band in the 1880s, and at least ten others were parents, siblings, children, or cousins of band members. Although the petition was favored by Colonel Miles at Fort Keogh, influential Crow Indian agent, A.R. Keller opposed the plan, and the Department of the Interior rejected it.⁴⁶ It was not until 1916 that the Chippewa Cree were granted the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation to the east, and today, more than a century later, descendants of the Spring Creek and other Métis groups affiliated with the Little Shell Cree continue to press for federal recognition as a culturally-distinct sovereign Indian nation.

Riel remained in the basin at Carroll until 1883 working as a trader for the T.C. Power Company. Deplorable relations between the Métis and whites at Carroll distracted Riel’s efforts to establish a reservation, and he instead pursued a futile fight to restrict the sale of liquor to his people. Joseph Kinsey Howard notes in his seminal work, *Strange Empire*, that had Riel instead located himself amongst the Spring Creek Métis who were peaceful and had a tradition of education “his future might have been very different.”⁴⁷ Riel moved on and taught school for two years at St. Peter’s Mission in Cascade County. In 1885 he went back to Canada to fight for Métis rights in Saskatchewan, but was jailed, tried for treason, and executed by the Canadian government.⁴⁸

Despite the failure of Riel to establish a Montana Métis reservation, Spring Creek settlers moved ahead with plans to establish a permanent settlement in the Judith Basin, following the laws of the U.S. government and the business practices of the controlling white merchants in Helena and Fort Benton. Their early efforts were successful and the community thrived from 1880 to 1883 when the buffalo in the Judith Basin still remained plentiful. Janeaux’s supplier was powerful Helena merchant, T.C. Power, with whom Janeaux, Riel and others trusted and had good relations.

However, by 1883 the buffalo had been hunted to near extinction and the cattlemen quickly moved thousands of cattle into the Judith Basin region. Janeaux, heavily in debt, turned all of his assets over to T.C. Power, thereby turning over his townsite to white merchants and cattlemen. After 1883, other community members survived by taking up work elsewhere on ranches, as freighters or day laborers. Though many Métis were successful in owning and operating small homesteads in the area, they were far less influential in the development of Lewistown after 1885.⁴⁹

44 Foster 94.

45 Foster 95.

46 Foster 97,99.

47 Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Strange Empire* (Westport, CN Greenwood Press, Publishers 1952) 344-345.

48 Howard 562.

49 Foster 135.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: **Montana Preservation Alliance**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 12 617075 5216070
Zone Easting Northing

3 12 617137 5216108
Zone Easting Northing

2 12 617115 52161023
Zone Easting Northing

4 12 617125 5216030
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) See map

The boundary begins at UTM point 1 at the intersection of Big Spring Creek and the entrance road to the trading post. The boundary line continues along the county road as it heads north. At UTM point 2 the line curves to the east to UTM point 3. From there it cuts south along a fence line to UTM 4 at Big Spring Creek. There it turns sharply to the west and borders the river back to UTM point 1.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary chosen follows natural and manmade features that define the landscape around the Reed and Bowles Trading Post. On the north the boundary follows the road, on the east the boundary follows a post and wire fence. On the south the boundary follows the road, and on the west the boundary again follows the road.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chere Jiusto and Christine Brown

organization Montana Preservation Alliance

date March 2010

street & number 120 Reeder's Alley

telephone 406-457-2822

city or town Helena

state MT

zip code 59601

e-mail info@preservemontana.org

With: Zane Fulbright, Lewistown Historic Resources Commission, 305 W. Watson, Lewistown, MT 59457

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Fergus County
street & number 712 W. Main St. telephone 406-538-5119
city or town Lewistown state MT zip code 59457

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

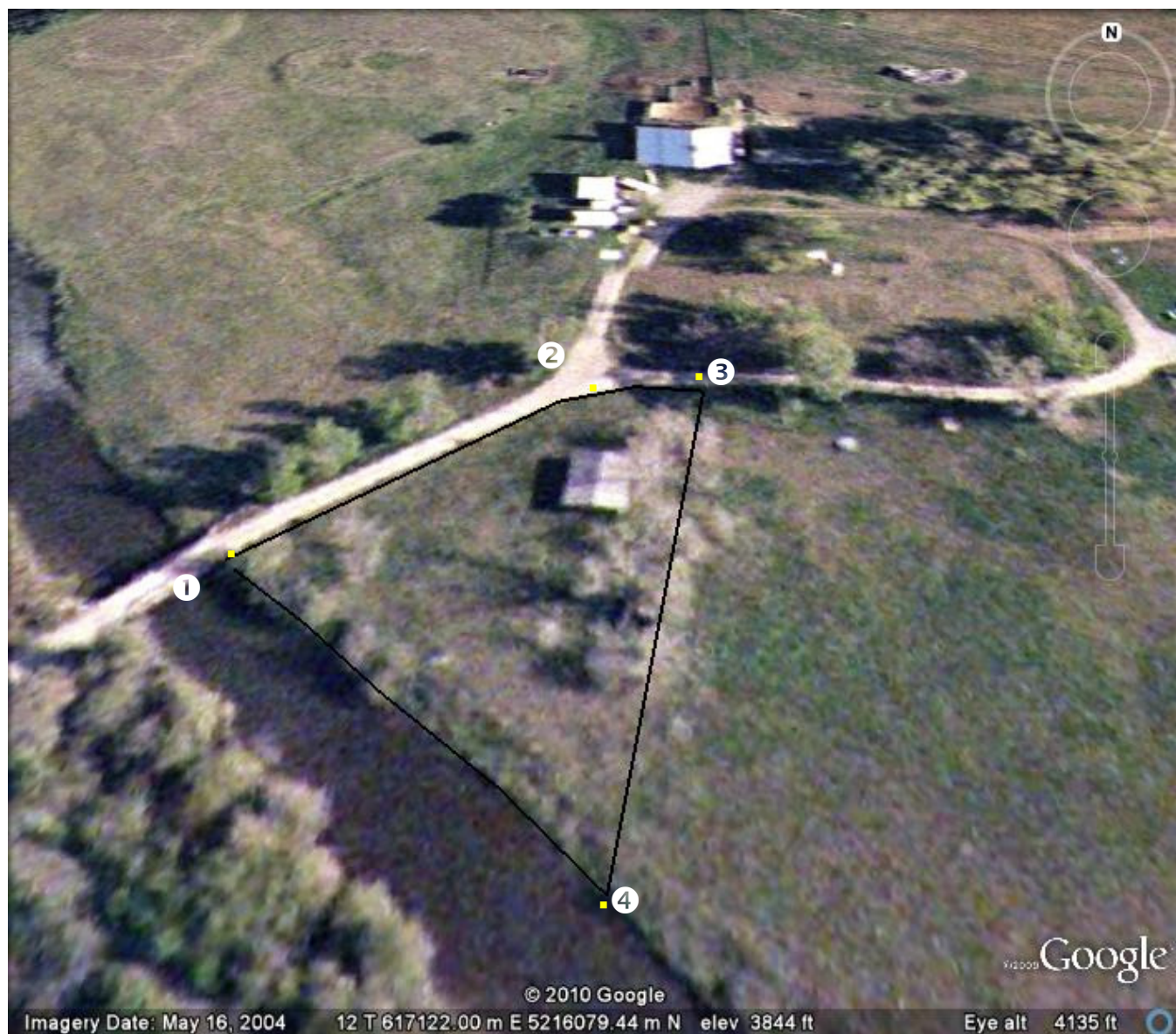
Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Boundary



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

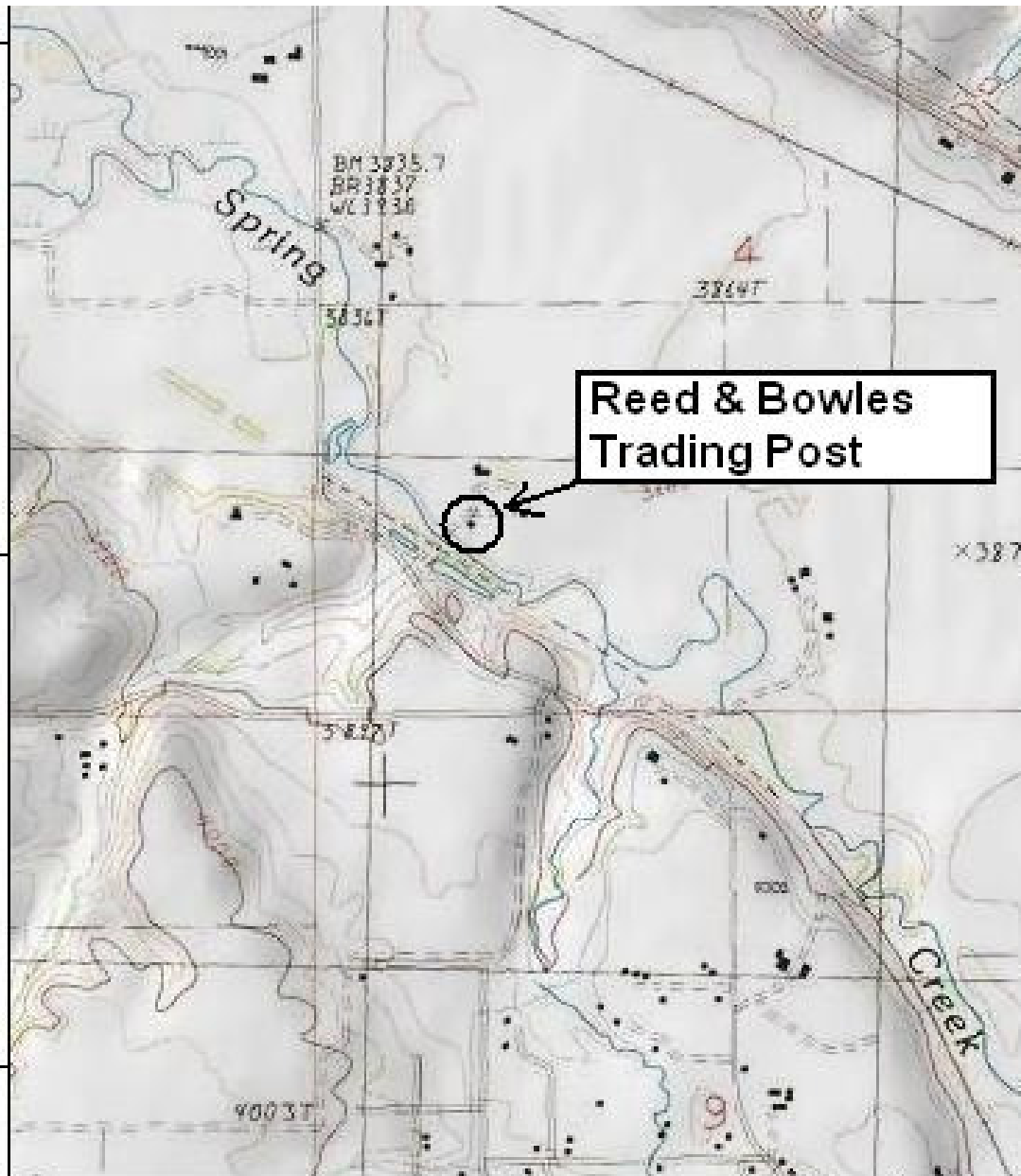
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Documentation

USGS Map

Location of Reed and Bowles Trading Post. Located in USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Map, Provisional 1985.



Map indicating historic route of Carroll Trail



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

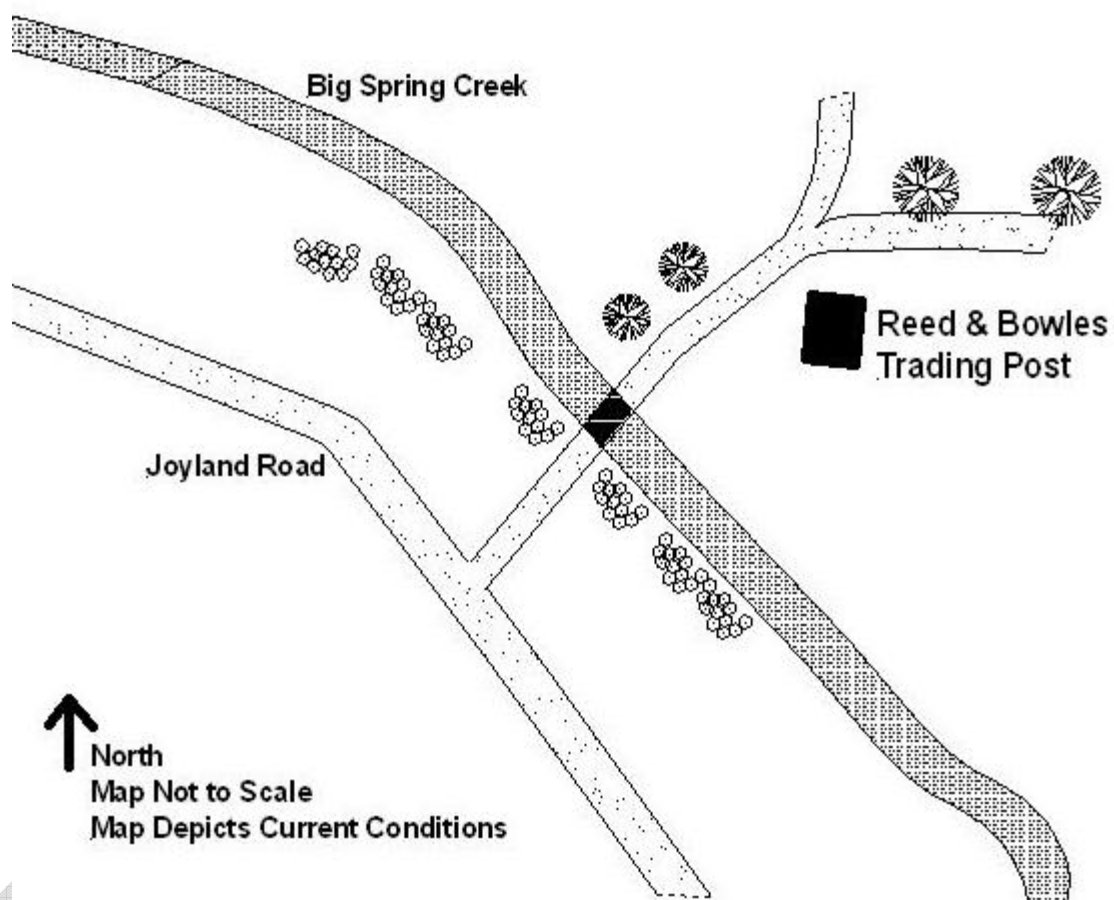
Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Sketch Map



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

All photographs are:

Name of Property: Reed and Bowles Trading Post

City or Vicinity: Lewistown

County: Fergus State: MT

Photographer: Duane Ferdinand

Date Photographed: 3/10/2010

0001 of 0013

Historic view of east elevation of Reed and Bowles Trading Post, ca. 1965

0002 of 0013

Historic view of west elevation during Fergus County Poor Farm era, ca. 1900

0003 of 0013

View of Fergus County Poor Farm with Reed and Bowles Trading Post at left in trees, ca. 1900

0004 of 0013

View of façade (east elevation) looking southwest

0005 of 0013

View of west and north elevations, looking southwest

0006 of 0013

View of north elevation with bronze DAR plate, looking south

0007 of 0013

View of west and south elevations, looking east

0008 of 0013

View of log notching at southwest elevation

0009 of 0013

View of south elevation roof logs

10 of 0013

Interior view looking at north and east walls.

0011 of 0013

Interior view looking at east and south walls with center posts and rafters

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

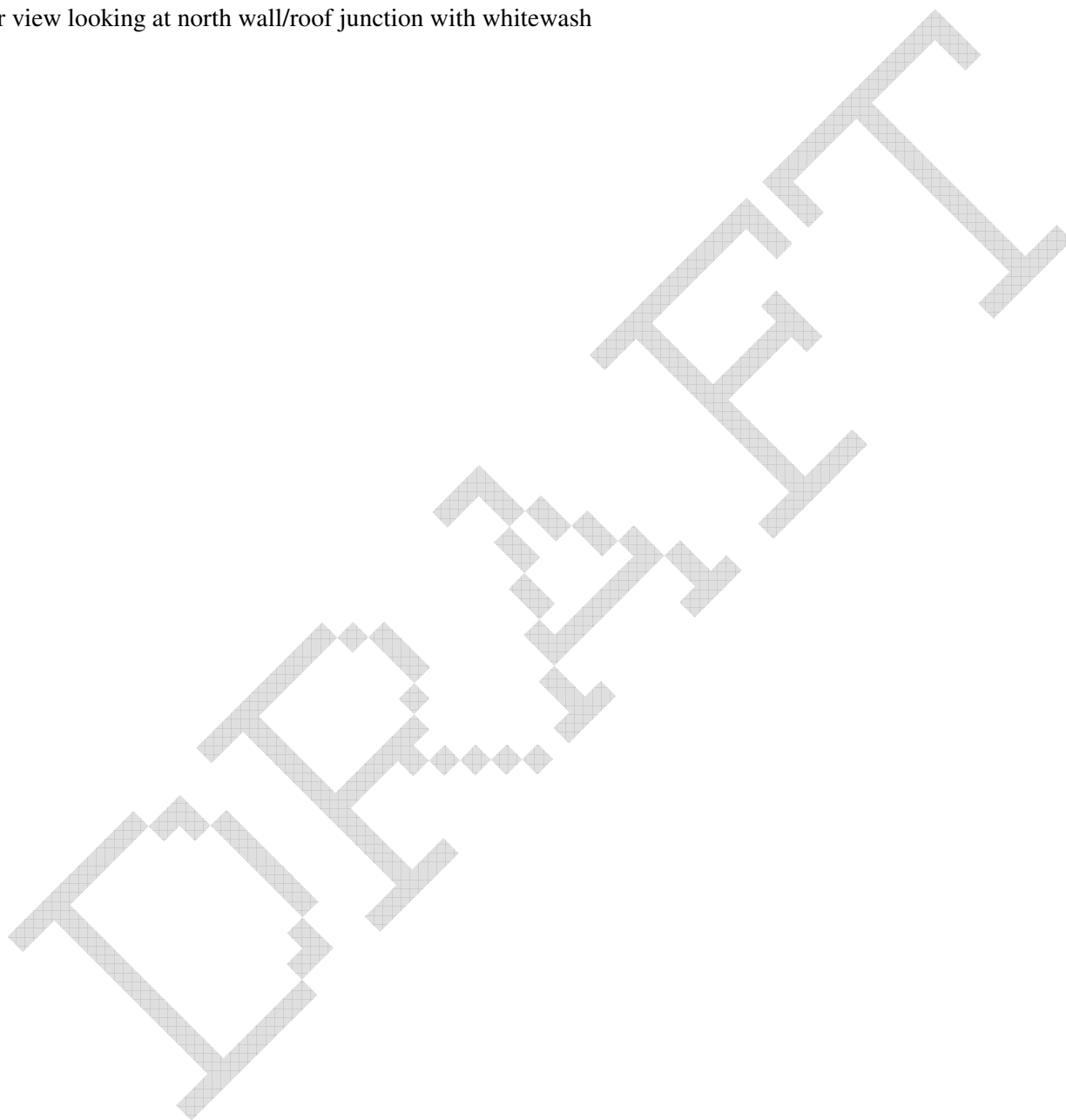
Photographs

0012 of 0013

Interior view looking east wall

0013 of 0013

Interior view looking at north wall/roof junction with whitewash



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



0001. View of east elevation of Reed and Bowles Trading Post, ca. 1965



0002. Historic view of west elevation during Fergus County Poor Farm era, ca. 1900

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs



0003. View of Fergus County Poor Farm with Reed and Bowles Trading Post at left in trees, ca. 1900

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



0004. View of façade (east elevation) looking southwest



5. View of west and north elevations, looking southwest

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs



0006. View of north elevation with bronze DAR plate, looking south



0007. View of west and south elevations, looking east

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



0008. View of log notching at southwest elevation



0009. View of south elevation roof logs

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



0010. Interior view looking at north and east walls.



0011. Interior view looking at east and south walls with center posts and rafters

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Reed and Bowles Trading Post

Name of Property

Fergus County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs



0012. Interior view looking east wall



0013. Interior view looking at north wall/roof junction with whitewash